



**British Institute of
International and
Comparative Law**

Business and Human Rights Forum

Activities and Membership

A Forum for legal practitioners working in the area of business and human rights



Introduction from the Director

The Business and Human Rights Forum (formerly the 'HRDD Forum') is a leading membership-based platform for legal practitioners, academics, policymakers, and other experts working at the intersection of business and human rights. Its mission is to provide a space for rigorous reflection, peer learning, and policy engagement as the field evolves.

Since its foundation in 2018 under the name 'UN Guiding Principles Forum', the Forum has grown and adapted in response to shifting legal, regulatory, and corporate expectations. Over time, it has broadened its remit - from a primary focus on human rights due diligence (HRDD) - to a more holistic approach to business and human rights, including remediation, access to justice, climate-human rights linkages, climate change litigation, modern slavery in supply chains, and emerging challenges like AI, and human rights impacts of new business models. It has also integrated business and human rights issues with other branches of law including competition law and investment law.

The BHR Forum provides a trusted, membership-based space for legal and policy experts to share experiences, test emerging ideas, and compare national and sectoral developments. It connects legal practitioners with academic and empirical research to ensure robust discussion on business and human rights issues. The Forum monitors regulatory, judicial, and enforcement trends and facilitate targeted dialogue with policymakers and international bodies.

The BHR Forum is structured around thematic roundtables and an annual conference, each focusing on priority topics in the business and human rights space.

Dr Irene Pietropaoli

Director of the Business and Human Rights Forum





Membership

The Forum membership is made up of legal practitioners from a wide range of backgrounds and jurisdictions globally, including from commercial law firms, claimant firms and the Bar. Membership of the Forum is available by invitation to legal practitioners in the area of business and human rights.

Membership of the BHR Forum is available at the following annual rates (exclusive of VAT):

- Law Firm: £2,750
- Individual: £1,100
- Barrister/sole practitioner: £440
- International: £440

Members have a direct influence on the agenda of the Forum and are invited to recommend topics for discussion in the group. The BHR Forum shares the excellent reputation enjoyed by BIICL for independence, even handedness and academic rigour.

Key benefits of membership include:

- Invitations to 3-4 closed events per year, on topics relating to legal practice and developments in the area of business and human rights;
- Free attendance at one annual Forum conference in the area of business and human rights;
- The opportunity to recommend guest speakers to be invited to Forum discussions and conferences;
- Access to the Members-Only area of our website where materials, notes and other sources are available;
- All Forum members also receive the following benefits: electronic access to the ICLQ; one free place per organisation at any standard BIICL evening event; and named Forum representatives are eligible for the BIICL member rate at other public Institute events.

For further details on how to become a member of the Forum, please contact Dr Irene Pietropaoli (i.pietropaoli@biicl.org).

Find out more: www.biicl.org/bhrmembership

Selected Publications



Human Rights Due Diligence for Climate Change Impacts: Webinar Series Report

Developments around mandatory human rights due diligence laws are multiplying across Europe, and increasingly include climate change impacts within their scope. As a result, companies, regulators, judges, legal advisors, civil society and the public are asking what the legal implications of these due diligence laws will be for companies relating to their climate change impacts. In this webinar series, the discussion turned on the nature of due diligence as a legal standard of care, how this can be applied in relation to climate change, and what the practical implications for companies are likely to be.

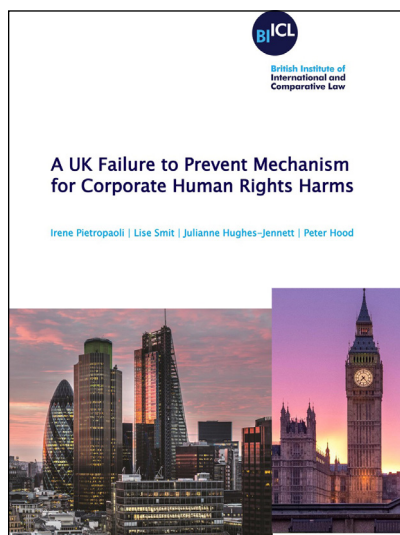
Read more: www.biicl.org/publications/human-rights-due-diligence-for-climate-change-impacts-webinar-series-report



European Commission study on due diligence in supply chains

The study was conducted by the British Institute of International and Comparative Law (lead), Civic Consulting and LSE Consulting for the European Commission. The study forms the basis of the European Commission Draft Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, published in February 2022. Through desk research, country reports, regulatory reviews, interviews and surveys the study identifies market practices and perceptions regarding regulatory options, intervention logic, and the anticipated economic, public, human rights and environmental impacts of regulation.

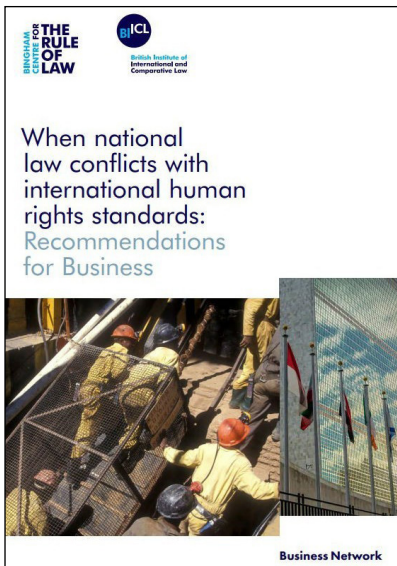
Read more: www.biicl.org/publications/european-commission-study-on-due-diligence-in-supply-chains



A UK Failure to Prevent Mechanism for Corporate Human Rights Harms

The report was supported by Hogan Lovells and Quinn Emanuel. As developments around mandatory human rights due diligence laws are taking place rapidly across Europe, this report considers the legal feasibility of introducing into UK law a corporate duty to prevent human rights harms, modelled on section 7 of the Bribery Act. The report sets out the results of a business survey on the potential impacts of such regulation, as well as a model legal provision. The ongoing civil society campaign for a UK Business, Human Rights and Environment Bill is based on this report.

Read more: www.biicl.org/publications/a-uk-failure-to-prevent-mechanism-for-corporate-human-rights-harms



When national law conflicts with international human rights standards

The first research supported by the Bingham Centre’s Business Network examined how companies can adhere to international human rights standards, as described in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), when faced with contradictory domestic laws or practices. The report categorises the different types of conflicts businesses may face and provides practical guidance on how to address conflicts within a Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) framework.

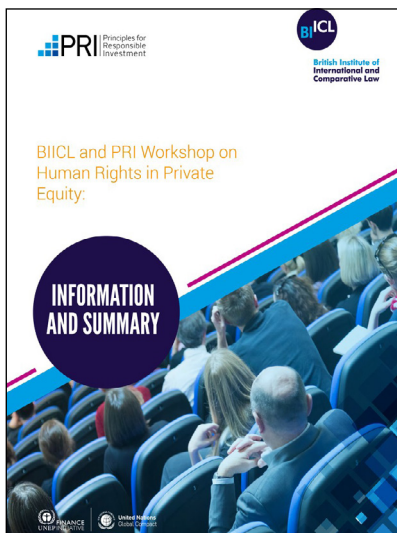
Read more: www.biicl.org/publications/when-national-law-conflicts-with-international-human-rights-standards



Making sense of managing human rights issues in supply chains

This project was conducted by BIICL and Norton Rose Fulbright. The research provides a comprehensive overview of the legal and regulatory framework relevant to the management of human rights in supply chains, sets out observations of current practice amongst businesses and provides best practice recommendations. It considers questions such as addressing human rights impacts beyond first tier suppliers, how to use leverage in the absence of a contractual relationship, and how to undertake HRDD when information about human rights risks is not readily available.

Read more: www.biicl.org/publications/making-sense-of-managing-human-rights-issues-in-supply-chains



BIICL and PRI: Human Rights in Private Equity Investment

According to the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), all business enterprises regardless of sector have a responsibility to respect human rights, and to carry out necessary HRDD. This also applies to private equity investors. This paper summarises discussions from a workshop convened by BIICL and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) with the aim of exploring implications of expectations for HRDD by investors, private equity firms and/or their portfolio companies, and to discuss what guidance and direction is needed.

Read more: www.biicl.org/publications/biicl-and-pri-human-rights-in-private-equity-investment



Events

Members meet 3-4 times each year for hybrid (online and in-person) thematic sessions to discuss topical issues. In addition, there is one public conference per year on a business and human rights-related topic, which members may attend for free.

Topics that we have discussed in the past include human rights due diligence in contracts, criminal liability for corporate human rights harms, the interaction between investment disputes and human rights due diligence, how to measure the 'effectiveness' of corporate human rights regulation, and human rights due diligence as a legal standard and defence.

Find out more: www.biiicl.org/bhrevents



2025 Business & Human Rights Annual Conference

The 2025 Business and Human Rights Annual Conference examined the increasingly complex and fragmented legal landscape that shapes corporate responsibilities for human rights and the environment. It explored both conflicting and complementary legal regimes across jurisdictions, with particular attention to jurisdictional tensions, enforcement challenges, and the expanding reach of domestic and supranational instruments.

Find out more: www.biiicl.org/events/12065/2025-business-and-human-rights-forum-annual-conference



Short Course: Business & Human Rights

This course provides participants with an appreciation of the human rights impacts of business activities; an awareness of the core concepts and principles established by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and an understanding of corporate human rights due diligence requirements. The course builds on developments at the international, regional, and national levels.

Testimonials from past attendees

"Fantastic course! High-level content was delivered in a clear, interesting and engaging way. Fascinating discussions occurred in every session and helpful resources shared throughout."

"Fabulous course, excellently structured and presented, with plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion."

Find out more: www.biiicl.org/training

Forum Members

Forum Members include some of the most expert and experienced lawyers, academics, government officials and international civil servants working in the area of business and human rights.

The Forum's membership is increasingly global, with current members in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US.

Members

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- Ardea International

 - Clifford Chance

 - Council of Ethics of the Norwegian Global Pension Fund

 - Covington & Burling

 - Danish Institute of Human Rights

 - Debevoise & Plimpton

 - Doughty Street Chambers

 - Environmental Law Research Institute

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- Hausfeld

 - International Council for Commercial Arbitration

 - Laudes Foundation

 - Leigh Day

 - LH Law & Consulting

 - Nishimura & Asahi

 - Norton Rose Fulbright

 - NOVA School of Law

 - Paxus LLP

 - Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan

 - Ropes & Gray

 - Six Pump Court

 - Twenty Essex

 - White & Case

 - Withers

 - Zelle



Contact Us

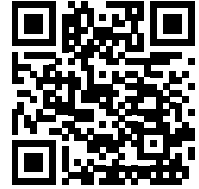
For further information about the BHR Forum, please contact us:

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www.biicl.org/bhrforum



Find Us

The British Institute of International and Comparative Law is situated in Bloomsbury and is easily accessible by public transport. The nearest tube station is Russell Square.



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